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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 9 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you with regard to another unfortunate case of the blatant violation by the United Nations host country of its obligations under international law.

Mr. Konstantin Vorontsov, Counsellor of the Department of Non-Proliferation and Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, was assigned to travel to New York as a member of the Russian delegation to the First Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session (requested date of entry in the United States: 1 October 2018).

Regrettably, the work of the First Committee is nearing its completion, but Mr. Vorontsov has not yet received an entry visa despite multiple reminders from us, including a diplomatic note to the Department of State.

The actions of the United States contradict its obligations under the United Nations Headquarters Agreement, which clearly indicates that entry visas to representatives of Member States must be issued as promptly as possible to enable them to travel, in a timely manner, to New York on official United Nations business, including United Nations meetings (see sect. 13 (a)). No grounds for denial of visas or for such deliberate prolongation of consideration of visa applications exist under the Agreement. Moreover, issues related to the entry into the United States of Member State representatives must be dealt with irrespective of the bilateral relations of the host country (see sect. 12).

The non-issuance of a visa to Mr. Vorontsov is a deliberate attempt by the United States to disrupt the work of a United Nations Member State delegation at one of the most important meetings in the General Assembly.

We would appreciate it if you would promptly engage with the authorities of the United States in order to assure the host country's compliance with its obligations towards the United Nations under the Headquarters Agreement.

(*Signed*) Vassily **Nebenzia**

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